

09/869749

JC2 Ac'd PCT/PTO 03 JUL 2001

540-012.2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the matter of: Kovanen et al )  
Serial No: ) Group Art Unit:  
Filed: Herewith ) Examiner:  
International Application: PCT/FI00/00010 )  
International Filing Date: 7 January 2000 )  
For: A Method and an Apparatus for Feeding )  
Image Plates Used for Intraoral )  
Dental X-Ray Photography into a )  
Reading Device )

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith references of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which they may have a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any document referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined under 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists.

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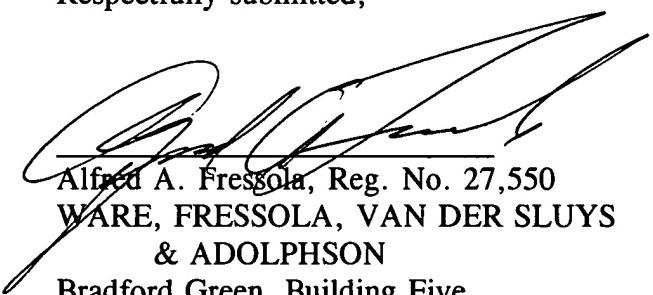
540-012.2

Four of the references are listed in the enclosed Finish Search Report dated December 16, 1999. A concise explanation of the relevance of each reference is specifically pointed out on page 2 of the search report. The aforementioned references and an additional five references are cited in the enclosed International Search Report dated May 12, 2000 and the relevance of each reference is specifically pointed out on page 3 of the search report. Three of these cited references are also cited on pages 1 and 2 of the application; namely, FI 90471, FI 92633 and US 5,635,728 and the relevance of these references is set forth in the specification, as noted. A PTO 1449 listing the cited references is also enclosed, along with English language translations of the Abstracts of the foreign language patent references.

In compliance with 37 CFR 1.56(c) and 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) the individual designated in 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information of each patent, publication, or other information listed that is not in the English language is the undersigned attorney with respect to the English abstracts of said foreign language patent references, and, for such references in the native language of the applicant, said applicant or the personnel of the patent department of the assignee of said applicant.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3 July 2001

  
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|-----------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------------------|------------|
| FORM PTO-1449<br>(Modified) |  | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE |  | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br>540-012.2 | SERIAL NO. |
|                             |  | INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT           |  | APPLICANT<br>Kovanen et al    |            |
|                             |  | (Use several sheets if necessary)<br>(37 CFR 1.98(b))      |  | FILING DATE<br>Herewith       | GROUP      |

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| EXAMINER INITIAL |               | DOCUMENT NUMBER |               | ISSUE DATE | PATENTEE | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APROPRIATE |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|----------|-------|----------|---------------------------|
| AA               | 5 1 4 8 0 2 8 | Sep. 15, 1992   | Ono           |            |          |       |          |                           |
| AB               | 5 8 1 8 0 6 5 | Oct. 6, 1998    | Exelmans      |            |          |       |          |                           |
| AC               | 5 3 4 0 9 9 5 | Aug 23, 1994    | Verbeke et al |            |          |       |          |                           |
| AD               | 5 6 3 5 7 2 8 | June 3, 1997    | Cantu et al   |            |          |       |          |                           |
| AE               |               |                 |               |            |          |       |          |                           |
| AF               |               |                 |               |            |          |       |          |                           |
| AG               |               |                 |               |            |          |       |          |                           |
| AH               |               |                 |               |            |          |       |          |                           |
| AI               |               |                 |               |            |          |       |          |                           |
| AJ               |               |                 |               |            |          |       |          |                           |
| AK               |               |                 |               |            |          |       |          |                           |

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

|    |               | DOCUMENT NUMBER |         | PUBLICATION DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|----|---------------|-----------------|---------|------------------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|    |               |                 |         |                  |         |       |          | YES         | NO |
| AL | 0 9 1 9 8 5 7 | June 2, 1999    | Europe  |                  |         |       |          |             |    |
| AM | 0 2 1 9 8 3 6 | Apr 29, 1987    | Europe  |                  |         |       |          |             |    |
| AN | 0 0 5 6 6 3 8 | July 28, 1982   | Europe  |                  |         |       |          |             |    |
| AO | 9 2 6 3 3     | Aug 31, 1994    | Finland |                  |         |       |          |             |    |
| AP | 9 0 4 7 1     | Oct 29, 1993    | Finland |                  |         |       |          |             |    |

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication)**

|    |  |  |
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| AR |  |  |
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| AS |  |  |
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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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**EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.